



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Brad Sherwood
(707) 521-6204

Water Agency Responds to Potable Water Leak at Water Collection Facility

Leak posed no public, environmental impacts

(Santa Rosa, CA) — Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) officials on March 19 responded to a potable water leak at one of its water collection facilities near Forestville. A work crew was immediately dispatched to the site where they stopped the leak that had released approximately six thousand gallons of chlorinated, potable drinking water. Agency biologists also responded and found that the drinking water did not reach the Russian River and that there were no public or environmental impacts caused by the leak.

The drinking water leaked into a nearby pond and channel that drains into the Russian River. Chlorine levels were tested in both the pond and channel. Chlorine residual was found to be 0.1 milligrams per liter in the pond and non-detect in the channel that leads from the pond to the Russian River. Non-detect means that no chlorine was detected in the channel, indicating no chlorinated drinking water entered the Russian River. The cause of the leak is under investigation. The source of the leak was a three-inch pipeline that extends from the water collector to a water testing facility located near Wohler Bridge. Approximately ten feet of the pipe will be replaced.

The Agency operates six collector wells adjacent to the Russian River in order to supply 600,000 residents with drinking water in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. The collector wells extract water from the deep gravel underflow of the Russian River. The water entering the collectors is extremely clean; however, chlorine is added as a precaution against possible contamination in the distribution system.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game were notified of the leak.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.